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>Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
>Food and Drug Administration  
>5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
>Rockville, Maryland 20852  
>

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production,  
>Processing, and Handling of Food"

>To whom it may concern:  
>

> The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the  
>current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated  
>by irradiation," and the use of the radura symbol on all  
>irradiated whole foods.

> Regarding the issue of labeling, in its initial  
>petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material  
>fact" about the processing of a food, and thus should be  
>disclosed. The material fact remains; therefore, labeling  
>should remain. Consumer acceptability, storage qualities and  
>nutrients are affected.

> Whether or not the FDA has approved irradiation as  
>safe, it remains a new technology with no long-term human  
>feeding studies. Consumers certainly have a right to know if  
>this process has been used on their food.

> As to the kind of label used, I believe that label  
>should be large enough to be readily visible to the  
>consumer, on the front of the package. The label contains  
>important information regarding the processing of the  
>contents. For displayed whole foods such as produce, a  
>prominent informational display similar to that used for  
>meats should be used (but containing the term "irradiation"  
>and the radura).

> Because of the newness of the technology and the need  
>to assess the public health effects of widespread use of  
>irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling  
>requirement should not be permitted to expire.

Sincerely,

*Steve Meyers*

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